Let us begin at the top. The High Court has disposed of a larger number of cases this year than in the previous year, but, nevertheless, the total pendency list at the end of the year increased. The new work that came before the Court showed a general increase. The District Courts revealed the same phenomenon, an increasing measure of outturn overborne by a growing accumulation of arrears. The figures are : the number of ordinary suits and small causes for disposal was 2,844, of which 997 cases were disposed of, leaving a balance of 1,847 cases, the corresponding figures of the previous year being 2,713, 931 and 1,782. Under appeals, the total number for disposal was 10,030, of which 4,069 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 5,961 cases, the figures for 1100 being 9,467, 3,638 and 5,829, respectively. The Judiciary is liberally manned. Why, then, does justice lag? The explanation lies in this. The High Court requires on an average 509 days for the disposal of a first appeal and 389 days for a second appeal. In the case of the District Courts, the average duration is 746 days for ordinary contested suits and 734 days for original small cause suits. In the case of uncontested cases, the duration is 343 days for ordinary suits and 331 days for original small cause suits. In the case of the Munsiffs' Courts, the average duration for the disposal of a contested ordinary suit is 422 days and for an uncontested suit 104 days. This Assembly is very much alive to the need for speeding up the administration of justice and has repeatedly pressed this upon the Government. The Government are at one with the Assembly; and during the last year they drew up proposals for the appointment of a committee to enquire into and suggest correctives for the law's delays. The matter was placed before the Legislative Council. They vetoed the proposed committee. And so the Government have turned to the High Court, confident that it will give special attention to the question of a general acceleration of disposals. It is a matter too in which the Bar can effectively co-operate.

20. Police.—There is nothing of special note to hold your attention in the regular work of the Police force. But in one direction it was felt that special arrangements were necessary to enable the department to exercise a prompter and more effective control over the irregular and careless ways of the large and growing fleets of motor vehicles plying for hire all over the State. Two additional Traffic Inspectors, qualified in motor mechanics, have been appointed and are now under training as Police Officers. The idea is to divide the motor roads of the State into three divisions, each in the charge of an Inspector.

21. Registration.—The partitions of property following upon the Nayar, the Ezhava and the Vellala Regulations have brought a large accession of work to the Registration Department. To cope with this, five new Sub-Registry offices were opened and the jurisdiction of several other offices was re-arranged so as to distribute the load.

22. Public Works.—As usual, the expenditure on works of public utility was not stinted, and nearly Rs. 30,50,000 was utilised by the P. W. D. Of this amount, only Rs. 4,31,000 was spent on buildings, both new constructions and repairs and maintenance. Practically, all the rest was spent on communications and irrigation works both reproductive and protective. About Rs. 1,60,000 was spent on bridges and culverts ; Rs. 1,20,000 went to improvement of canals ; and about Rs. 5,59,000 was devoted to new roads and special improvements to roads. Of the sum of Rs. 5,59,000, gentlemen from the northern and the central Travancore will be pleased to know that their needs received special consideration. Rs. 2,74,000 was expended on roads for the Kottayam Division and Rs. 1,55,000 on roads for the Quilon Division. Alleppey was until the other day accessible only by water communication. The completion of the Quilon-Alleppey road was specially expedtied by the Chief Engineer and motor traffic is now plying between Quilon and Alleppey. Another road to the construction of which special efforts have been directed is the Alleppey-Shertallai-Arur road. About Rs. 63,700 has been allotted towards the construction of this road during the current year and rapid progress is being made so that there will be through communication by road from our southern frontier, Aramboly, to Shertallai

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly